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Assassination symposium will start here Tuesday

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A "National Symposium on the Assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr." opens Tuesday and continues through Saturday at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

The event is the first of its kind in the country on King's death, according to the faculty coordinator, Professor David Wrone.

Joining Wrone in delivering the lectures will be authors James Hiram Lesar of Washington, D.C., Howard Roffman of Philadelphia, Pa., and Harold Weisberg of Frederick, Md. Their sessions will include question and answer periods and will be open to the public without charge.

Wrone has been focusing his inquiry on the question, "why were investigations of the killings covered up?"

The sympossium, he says, will give the public opportunities to question the integrity of basic American institutions.

He contends that the courts, Congress, the press, academic institutions and others "did not act in accordance with the great principles that originally made those institutions great" while handling the Kennedy and King cases.

During many of the sessions, the speakers will point out authors who they have say pursued the truth and other writers of assassination books who have contributed to misunderstanding, spread untruths and whose main purpose in publishing has been for profit, Wrone said.

Here's a schedule of symposium sessions:

Tuesday — Lecture at 8 p.m. by Wrone on "Martin Luther King and the Transformation of the Civil Rights Movement," in Wisconsin Room of the University Center.

Wednesday — Seminar at 10 a.m. by Weisberg and Lesar on "Recent Developments: Court Cases, House of Representatives Inquiry, Etc." in Room 125 of the University Center; lecture at 3 p.m. by Lesar on "Assassination of Martin Luther King and the System of Justice — Reality and Idea," in Room 125 of the University Center; lecture at 8 p.m. by Weisberg on "Assassination of Martin Luther King: A Case Study of the Malfunction of Government," in the Program-Banquet Room of the University Center.

Thursday — Lecture at 3 p.m. by Lesar on "The Assassination of John F. Kennedy: Impact on the Legal System — the Freedom of Information Act" in the Program-Banquet Room; lecture at 8 p.m. by Weisberg on "The Warren Commission: Behind the scenes — Their Secret Documents" in the Program-Banquet Room.

Friday — Seminar at 10 a.m. by Weisberg on "Recent Developments: Schweiker Report, Abzug Report, FBI Revelations, Etc." in Room 125 of the University Center; lecture at 3 p.m. by Wrone on "Assassination of John F. Kennedy: Malfunction of Criticism" in room 125 of the Collins Classroom Center; lecture at 8 p.m. by Weisberg on "Assassination of John F. Kennedy: Suppresion of the Evidence" in Quandt Gym.

Saturday — Lecture at 8 p.m. by Roffman on "Lee Harvey Oswald and the Failure of American Justice" in Quandt Gym.

Lesar, a Washington, D.C. attorney, has filed Freedom of Information Act suits in the investigations of King and the JFK assassinations. He is the attorney for James Earl Ray, King's convicted slayer, and with Weisberg has generated over 20 volumes of legal documents.

Roffman is an author, a law student and editor of his law review, as well as an expert on the physical evidence in the Kennedy Assassination and the manuscript records of the Warren Commission in the national archives.

Wrone, is a professor of history at UW-Stevens Point, and is the author of "The Assassination of John Fitzgerald Kennedy — An Annotated Bibliography" and several articles.